

IN THE SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0039] as follows:

[0039]       The carriage unit (9) has a plurality of carriage stages or steps (10, 11), which are movable in relation to one another along at least one linear axis relative to one another, can be controlled separately, are mounted next to one another and are preferably arranged one on top of another in the exemplary embodiment being shown. The respective upper carriage step (11) is supported now on the lower carriage step (10) and is movable in relation to this in the sense of a telescopic or cascading arrangement. The first and lower carriage step (10) is mounted here movably on the top side of the basic carrier (8) in a suitable manner with a sliding or rolling bearing. The second carriage step (11) is mounted movably on the first carriage step (10) in a corresponding manner. Additional carriage steps can be arranged in the same manner in a cascade or in a telescopic arrangement one on top of another or optionally also next to one another. For example, two or more carriage steps may be mounted on the first, lower carriage step (10), and these are now preferably movable separately and independently from one another.